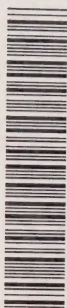


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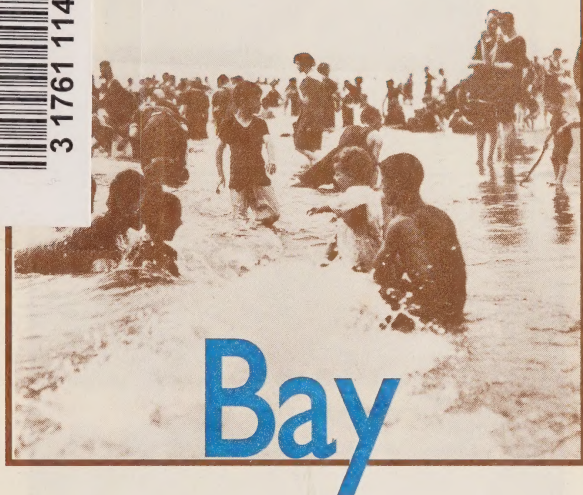
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Government  
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# Toronto



CIRCA 1911



Waterfront Regeneration Trust



Environnement  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

“And if you had  
a fish’s-eye view;  
you might think  
that things were  
downright awful!”

*The Berenstain Bears*  
1991



CIRCA 1907

*Toronto viewed from the islands*

**MARCH 1997**

*For more information contact:*  
Leslie Woo, Project Coordinator  
**Waterfront Regeneration Trust**  
207 Queens Quay West, Suite 580  
Toronto, Ontario M5J 1A7

Tel: (416) 314-9498

Fax: (416) 314-9497

E-mail: [lw@wrtrust.com](mailto:lw@wrtrust.com)

# Toronto Bay



CIRCA 1910

The Toronto Bay initiative is bringing the community together to work towards a safer and healthier harbour. The name “Toronto Bay” suggests a vision for the harbour that integrates nature with our living and working community.

Toronto Bay focuses on the waters emptying into the harbour. The Bay is cradled by the Toronto Islands and marked by the city’s edge, from which many combined sewers overflow. Too little attention has been given to the health of the Bay and its sewershed.

## Why Toronto Bay?

Toronto Bay is nestled within the Greater Toronto Bioregion. At a much larger scale it is part of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, one of the largest bodies of fresh water in the world. In 1985, both Canada and the U.S., identified this area as a “pollution hot spot” requiring a Remedial Action Plan (RAP). While government agencies have been working to de-list Toronto and to restore beneficial uses, funding is uncertain. The community must now become organized and active in the clean-up of the Bay.



# The City and the Bay

Toronto Bay is a growing community within the City. The diversity of uses that have come to flourish here over the past eighty years was unimaginable when the original harbour was designed and built.



CIRCA 1913

*York Street anchorage*

Toronto Bay has been many things; a front yard, a back yard, a playground and a sewer. The Bay's story is also the City's story: a story of topography and waterscapes shaped by ambitions; a story of new land created and waters destroyed.

Toronto Bay has shared itself with the City for many years, for better and for worse. We simply cannot bemoan the displacement of arcadia by industry, and regret the fact that the Bay is not what it once was. We have to ask how we can now live and work here. These are not new questions. They have been asked by those that came before us and will be asked by those that will follow.

## Who is involved?

This initiative originated as a partnership amongst the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and the offices of City Councillor Dan Leckie (Ward 5) and City of Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall.

Since November 1996, a diverse group has been meeting about the Bay with the assistance of groups such as Environment Canada, the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Task Force To Bring Back The Don. Many more partnerships are possible.

## What needs to be done?

This initiative is foremost **project driven**. Hands-on community based projects and small successes will pave the way for more ambitious ones.

Many other communities have successfully organized to restore and remediate their waters. *The Task Force to Bring Back the Don* in Toronto, the *Bay Area Restoration Council* in Hamilton Harbour, *Save the Bay/Save the Harbour* in Boston are all citizen-based organizations that work to protect, monitor and promote cleaner and healthier waters.

There is also a lot we need to learn about Toronto Bay. We need to raise awareness and educate ourselves, while at the same time not being paralysed by those things we do not know.



CIRCA 1908

## What can you do?

There are numerous ways that each of us can become involved ....volunteer to help raise awareness throughout the sewershed.... fill out the survey attached ..... become more aware ..... organize with others in your community to minimize the amount of garbage going into the Bay .....disconnect your downspout ..... always choose more natural porous surfaces over hard paved ones, they decrease the amount of stormwater flowing into the Bay.

A number of projects below have also been identified as part of the Toronto Bay initiative. If you are interested in actively working on any of these please call the Toronto Bay initiative at (416) 314-9498.

- ◆ Community tree plantings along Queens Quay West
- ◆ Bay walks and tours
- ◆ Signage at sewer outfall locations
- ◆ Spring clean-up on the water
- ◆ Identify natural systems projects to reduce sewage entering the Bay
- ◆ Organize a swim across the Bay to raise public awareness
- ◆ Organize a paddle across the Bay to raise public awareness
- ◆ A fish and wildlife habitat restoration project at lagoons and bays of the Toronto Islands
- ◆ Preparation of a comprehensive map of the Toronto Bay
- ◆ Link activities with the work of Don River & Garrison Creek communities
- ◆ Prepare a State of the Bay Report



# Come to the Toronto Bay Forum



An event to  
promote a clean,  
green, connected  
and accessible  
Toronto Bay

SUNDAY

March 9th 1997

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ADMIRAL BALLROOM  
RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL  
249 Queens Quay West  
Toronto, Ontario

*This is a Free Event*





Please  
complete  
the survey  
on the  
reverse  
side.



CIRCA 1907

“A terrible crime  
has been committed  
here, I have tears  
for a lost Eden”

*Greg Allen  
January 1997*

# BRING THE W

Sunday, March 9th 1997, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Ra

## PROGRAM

**12:30**

**Registration, Browsing and Refreshments.**

Meet your neighbours, sip some coffee, have a bite to eat and enjoy the displays.

**1:00**

**Welcome – Mayor Barbara Hall, City of Toronto**

**1:15**

**Home, Community and Health**

Enjoy a dramatization answering the question, what are ecosystems? and join in, as we create our own map of the Toronto Bay Ecosystem with Trinity Theatre Toronto.

**1:45**

**Waterfront Reflections**

A brief video presentation on the history of Toronto Bay courtesy the Marine Museum.

**2:15**

**The Water System**

See students from local schools present an entertaining and educational presentation on how our actions affect our surroundings and how water works in Toronto Bay.

**2:30**

**Pike, Garters and Terns ..Oh My!**

See an engaging overview of the diverse wildlife inhabiting the shores of Toronto in a slide presentation by Gord MacPherson, Coastal Ecologist with the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

**3:00**

**Our Community**

Hear first hand the experiences of those who have lived and worked in the Bay for most of their lives. Share the experiences of other community leaders, who have successfully organized to clean up their waters. Follow up with an opportunity to ask questions.

# HOLE FAMILY!

on Plaza Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West, Toronto

## PROGRAM

**3:30**

### Acting Now!

Learn how you can get involved in cleaning up  
Toronto Bay.

**3:45**

### Closing Remarks

David Crombie, Commissioner,  
Waterfront Regeneration Trust

**4:00**

### More Browsing

Enjoy information displays by  
the Metro Toronto & Region Conservation  
Authority, Waterfront Regeneration Trust;  
Task Force to Bring Back the Don,  
Environment Canada, Metro Toronto RAP,  
Garrison Creek Community Project, WIEP  
and Greensaver.

**4:30**

### Before Heading Home

Walk east over to the Queens Quay  
Terminal Building and view an exhibition  
entitled "The City meets the Water"  
by students of three of North America's  
leading Schools of Architecture.



CIRCA 1911

## SURVEY

Please fill out the following survey and return  
by mail or fax to:

### Toronto Bay

% Waterfront Regeneration Trust

207 Queens Quay West, Suite 580

Toronto, Ontario M5J 1A7

Fax: (416) 314-9497

Attention: Leslie Woo

☐ **YES**, I am committed to a clean, green,  
connected & accessible Toronto Bay.

#### I would like to:

- ☐ Attend upcoming meetings
- ☐ Volunteer for upcoming projects
- ☐ Receive more information

#### I would like Toronto Bay to:

- ☐ Have cleaner, more swimmable waters
- ☐ Become a greener place
- ☐ Have more places where I can touch  
the water
- ☐ Other

#### I am very concerned about:

---

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

APT #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



# Toronto Bay Forum

An event to promote a clean, green,  
connected and accessible Toronto Bay

**Sunday, March 9th 1997**

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Admiral Ballroom, Radisson Plaza Hotel

249 Queens Quay West, Toronto, Ontario

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Offices of City Councillor Dan Leckie and Mayor  
Barbara Hall, Environment Canada, Marine Museum,  
City of Toronto Archives, Task Force to Bring Back the  
Don & MTRCA.

*For further information contact:*

**Waterfront Regeneration Trust**

207 Queens Quay West, Suite 580

Toronto, Ontario. M5J 1A7

Tel: (416) 314-9498 Fax: (416) 314-9497

E-Mail: lw@wrtrust.com



## The City meets the Water:

Projects on the Toronto Bay

An exhibition of selected projects from the  
architectural design studios at three universities:

*The Graduate School of Design, Harvard*

*The University of Toronto*

*The University of Waterloo*

**March 6th 1997 to March 30th 1997**

Queens Quay Terminal Building, South Atrium

207 Queens Quay West, Toronto

Daily: 10:00am to 10:00pm

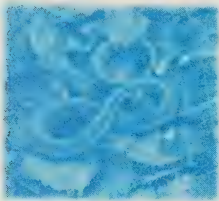
The projects are hypothetical, using different sites around  
Toronto Bay to explore new relationships between nature  
and the built world. All projects share a concern for the  
future of Toronto Bay. Together they offer some visions for  
the development of this precious asset.

*Exhibition Organizers:*

Prof. Bridgette Shim, Rick Andrighetti and Jeff Stinson.

Call 978-4323 for more information.

# Creatures and their Homes

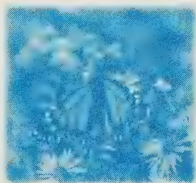


Toronto Bay at one time supported a broad variety of fish and wildlife habitat. Historically these important habitats were a combination of the sand peninsula, the many lagoons and bays of the Toronto

Islands, and extensive wetlands along the north shore. Over time these habitats changed or were lost to a growing City and its port.

Existing habitats are concentrated in and around the Toronto Islands. It is here that unique species like the *melanistic garter snake* are found. The dry shady areas on the Islands are also well-suited for egg laying by snapping and painted turtles. The Toronto Islands are also an important stopover for migratory birds including many song birds, raptors and shore birds.

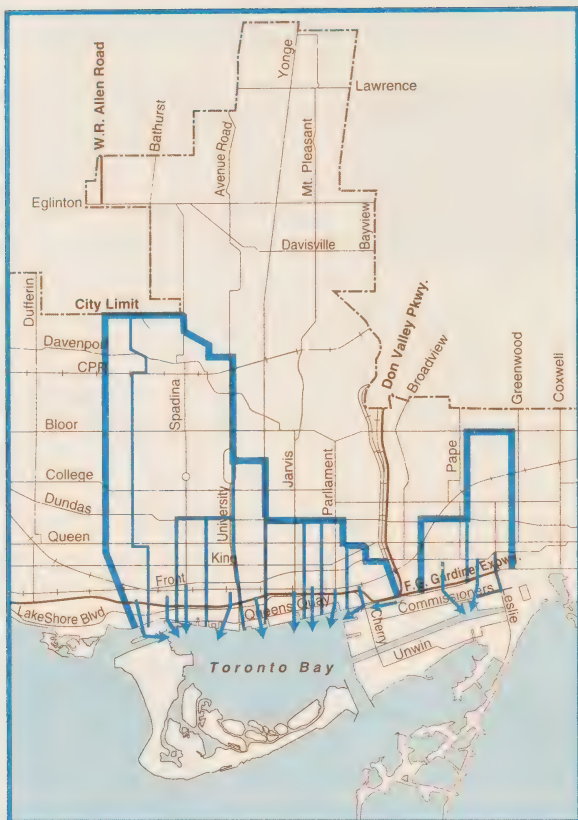
The lagoons and bays of the Islands provide important habitat for fish. The delicate balance necessary for all these creatures to co-exist, requires care and vigilance. The Toronto Islands sustain unique ecological habitats while at the same time having over one million visitors each year for special events such as Caribana, Dragon Boat Races, and Festival of India.



“I feel that in the Toronto Island neighbourhood, I have found a place that heals, a place of the soul, and I am sad that it is such a rare place.”

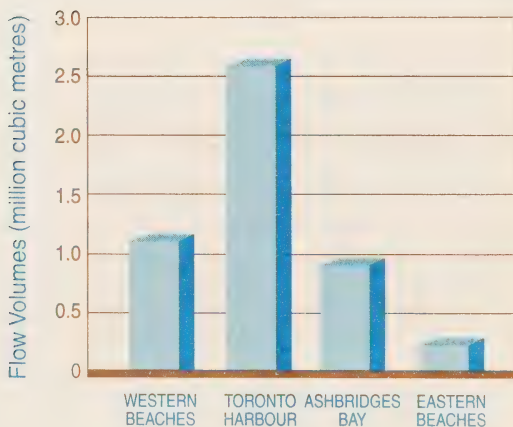
*Timothy Shuff, May 1995*

*If you have questions regarding the nearshore habitats of the Bay contact the Metro Toronto & Region Conservation Authority at (416) 661-6600, Metro Parks and Culture (416) 392-8186 or the Toronto Field Naturalists (416) 968-6255.*



CITY WORKS, 1997

## TORONTO BAY SEWERSHED



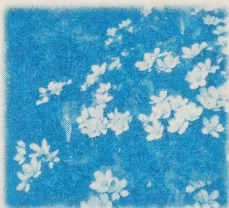
SUMMARY OF SEASONAL SEWER FLOWS BY REGION, 1994



## How clean are the waters in the Bay?

The quantity and quality of water flowing into Toronto Bay vary depending on weather conditions. Pollutants quickly empty and spread along the shore within 6 to 8 hours of a rain storm and it takes another two days for these pollutants to disperse.

What are the pollutants? Most of the pollutants discharging at the dockwalls are known by their association with Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). CSOs combine storm runoff from streets, sanitary sewage with bacterial contamination (fecal coliform) and industrial wastes. In addition to the 11 CSOs and 9 storm sewers that empty directly into Toronto Bay, the Don River makes a significant contribution to the problem.



The in-shore waters of the Toronto Islands are the cleanest waters in the Bay. They are farthest away from the sources of pollution; the islands themselves act as a filtering system; and they are the least urbanized.

Ironically, the people who live closest to these polluted waters only contribute a small portion of the pollution. Most pollution comes from up the sewershed. The Toronto Bay Sewershed extends as far north as St. Clair Avenue and just east of Dufferin Street. Much of what is poured down our sinks or flushed down our toilets could end up in the Bay when the combined sewers overflow.



*For more detailed information  
on how your water works, call*

Ted Bowering, City Works (416) 392-7705  
or Greensaver (416) 461-9670, ext. 222

# The Changing Bay

This Fall a new 350 student school and a community centre will open at the corner of Bathurst Street and Queen's Quay West and work is underway to secure a fire station. Both students and members of the community will soon be able to enjoy many new



activities in the planned schoolyard, on the small baseball diamond and on the grassed play area.

This Fall Spadina Gardens will blossom to three times its current size, providing a foothold for native plant communities. It is proposed that a portion of this shore will be naturalized to encourage the spawning of pike and other indigenous fish species. The straightening of Queens Quay West permitting this park expansion will incorporate a new bicycle lane and plantings of grasses and perennials along a centre median. Major tree plantings are also being planned along Queens Quay by the City Parks Department.

*For further information contact*

Dianna Birchall, Urban Development Services  
392-6623 or

Barry Hughes, City Parks, 392-7438



In the future, living on the Bay will become a more common choice. As a growing community, we need to ensure that we keep the Bay very much on our minds. We need to be a community that carefully integrates the natural features of the Bay with our expanding downtown.

We are pioneering a previously conquered landscape and creating new way of living with our environment. We are working towards a cleaner, greener, more connected and accessible life on the Bay.



CIRCA 1911



METRO TORONTO & REGION  
REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF:  
City of Toronto Archives and MTRCA

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R.K. Studios Limited

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PAPER:  
Acid free and contains a  
minimum of 50% recycled fiber and  
20% post-consumer waste.





**Waterfront Regeneration Trust**  
207 Queen's Quay West, Suite 580  
Toronto, Ontario M5J 1A7

**University of Toronto- Robarts Library**  
Government Documents  
5th Floor  
130 St. George Street,  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A5



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